

Falling into Gratitude

I'm back from Sabbatical nearly a month now. "How was it?" many have asked. Wonderful, is my quick answer, Really wonderful. I spent 6 weeks at Holden Village serving as their Teaching Staff Coordinator, working with the professors, artists, musicians, and writers who come to teach for a week or two at this remote Lutheran retreat center nestled in the Cascade Mountains of Washington.



It's remote because it takes a lot of travel to get to Chelan, Washington, and then a couple-hour boat ride up deep Lake Chelan, and THEN a bus (read: school bus) ride up the switch backs (9 total) to make the 11 mile journey to the mountain village. No cell phones, minimal computer access, mountains rising around you, electricity powered by Holden's own hydro-electric system and the force of snow melt coming off the mountains (in the village they had 322" of snow last winter!).

We (Jane, Eliza and I) were consumed in another community. I enjoyed my program work and experiencing this big staff and many guests (nearly 450 people in the village much of the time we were there). I savored vespers (read: a short worship service) each evening and communion on Sunday evenings. I worked... and played: hiking and walking lots, knitting, reading, talking with folks, napping. Eliza loved her "red Holden house" and the children's program.

"So, how is it being back?" That's the other question I've been hearing. Honestly, it's great. The time away immersed in different work, a beautiful setting, and an altered routine has helped me find new energy and perspectives as I return... the same, and yet different. Here is some of what I'm grateful for this fall.

- The opportunity to go away and come home. More powerful, than we realize.
- Pastor Catrina and the amazing cadre of leaders at Salem. Thank you for this opportunity.
- Children of God! This August we've celebrated the baptisms of Sitotaw and Bettie Buzzell and Solveig Tollerson.
- The renovations. The ministry center is looking great and we're still planning to be in around Thanksgiving. Zillions (practically) of little and big decisions have faced us and we're making significant headway.
- Sunday School. I'm excited by the strength and creativity we've found in our partnership with Lyndale and First. Leaders are writing our rotation Sunday School curriculum based on biblical stories of God's constant care for us and our communities in times of change (think Noah, Ruth, Daniel, the disciples, people needing healing).
- Rally Sunday on September 11th. A time for worship and prayer, the first day of Sunday School, and music, eats, and tours at the ministry center following.
- Summer picnics. And lots of time in the parks with one another and our neighbors.
- Visitors. Our faithful elders. New students (meet our intern Cheryl in the coming pages) and returning students.
- A Safe Church Policy structuring and guiding our work with kids, youth, and vulnerable adults. Headway on our website (watch for it in the coming months). Plans for the next move.

Most of all, I'm grateful for God's leading on this journey. And, your faithfulness. Your prayers, ideas, gifts, and offerings make God's ministry in this place happen. Thank you.

—Pastor Jen



This year we begin the Sunday School year with Rally Sunday on **September 11**. On that Sunday, we will have classes at 9:15, and only one service at 10:30 am. After worship we'll head to the ministry center site for hot dogs, root beer floats, SpiritJazz music, and tours of the ministry center. Plan to join in the fun as we look forward with gratitude!



Salem News ...

Development Update

Progress Continues at the Ministry Center!

- Most of the exterior alterations to the building are waiting for windows, stone, vents, etc. to be delivered.
- A lead abatement contractor has been hired to remove most of the lead from the exterior of the building, and the wood parts of the building will be repainted.
- The interior of the building is moving quickly. The mechanical and electrical equipment is being installed and carpenters are working to frame the rooms.
- Our architects and various committees are trying to figure out how to incorporate late additions and subtractions to meet our budget.
- Interior lighting continues to be an issue that needs to be worked out. We are trying to develop a plan that creates enough light, adds a design element to the spaces and is within budget.
- The Design Team and the Worship Space, Kitchen, Technology Subcommittees are trying to answer the questions asked of them as they are needed.
- Want to see the progress? Take a tour on Sept. 11. ReDevelopment Forum this month is on Sept. 18. Your continued prayers needed!



**Dean, Watson Forsberg's
Site Supervisor, for the
Ministry Center.**

ISAIAH 8 Month Leadership Training at Intermedia Arts on September 8

Salem will be hosting the monthly meeting for the ISAIAH 8 month leadership development course on Thursday, September 8th from 6-9 pm. Feel free to come out and see if you are interested in ISAIAH and issues of racial equity in our state! You can contact Nick Allen with any questions 612-868-7216.

Event with the Minnesota Commissioner for Education on September 17

Salem has committed to work with ISAIAH to help tackle issues of racial equity within our state. On Saturday, September 17, 2011, ISAIAH will be hosting an event with Minnesota Commissioner of Education, Brenda Casselius, to discuss raising achievement levels for all students, and accelerating achievement levels for black and brown students to close the growing gap. If you have any interest in education and/or racial equity, please consider contributing your input at this event! The meeting is from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm at St. Alphonsus Catholic Church, 7025 Halifax Ave N, Brooklyn Center MN. Lunch will be served. Please RSVP to Amity Foster: Amity.Foster@isaiah-mn.org, and let Nick Allen know you are coming (alni0401@gmail.com). You can contact Nick Allen with any questions 612-868-7216.

“Islam, Shariah & Democracy”

Monday, September 19, 7-9pm

MAII (Minneapolis Area Interfaith Initiative) is presenting “Islam, Shariah & Democracy” on Monday, September 19 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at Oak Knoll Lutheran Church, 600 Hopkins Crossroad in Minnetonka (take I-394 to Hopkins Crossroad & go north 2 blocks). The presentation will be followed by facilitated small group discussion. Free of charge.

Speakers: Dr. Charles Amjad-Ali is a Christian, originally from Pakistan. He has a post-doctoral certificate in Islam from Columbia and is a professor at Luther Seminary, where he is Director of the Islamic Studies Program. Dr. Tamim Saidi is from Afghanistan & came to Minnesota in 1990. He is a pharmacist, V.P. of the Islamic Resource Group, founding member of the N.W. Islamic Community Center in Hamel and gives sermons at Friday prayer at various area mosques.

Salem Lutheran is a Core Sponsor of MAII. MAII unites individuals and faith communities in the Minneapolis area in learning about other religious traditions, increasing interfaith understanding and building personal relationships across faiths. Contact MAII at maiimpls@gmail.com for more details on this program or to get notice of our other events.



More News ... **Baptisms**



In August we celebrated baptisms! Sitotaw and Bettie (picture on right) were baptized on August 14. They are the children of Rae Buzzell. Solveig (picture on left) was baptized on August 21. Solveig's parents are Kate Rime and Austin Tollerson and her sponsors include Salem members Jess and Mitch Helle-Morrissey. Welcome, Children of God!



Welcome, Intern Cheryl Johnson!

"Hello All,

My name is Cheryl Johnson and I am excited to be starting my internship with you this fall. This internship is a part of my M. Div. Degree at United Theological Seminary in New Brighton, MN. UTS is an ecumenical seminary of the United Church of Christ. Even though my seminary requirements are coming to an end, I am still discerning my calling to the Church, and am hoping that my time at Salem with bring clarity to the process for me.

I was brought up Lutheran and was confirmed at Abiding Savior Lutheran Church in Mounds View, MN where I played a lot of softball and I tipped over my fair share of canoes. In high school I was around evangelical Lutherans and I have been interested in studying the Bible ever since. The verity of activities and opportunity at Salem, all done within an urban setting is a great match for me and my interests.

Even though theology and Bible studies are my top interests, for I find they are a good source for determining action and a great guide in our lives in general, I also am very concerned with pastoral care issues of the individual in relation to their communities of faith.

And finally, I am always on the lookout for what the Holy Spirit is doing in our lives together. I am very pleased to be accepted as your intern for this upcoming year, and I am looking forward to meeting you all!

*Peace,
Cheryl*



Many New Somali Refugee Families Arriving in Twin Cities

Through the Minnesota Council of Churches (MCC), one of several sponsoring organizations in the Twin Cities, the Hassan family has been welcomed to Minnesota and is settling into their new life in Minneapolis. As part of Taking Root Program of the MCC, Mary Vanderford and members of other churches are part of a cross-cultural team of Muslim and Christian volunteers working to assist the Hassan family. This assistance ranges from going together to the farmer's market and appointments, to signing up for Social Security cards, public assistance support (until parents find work), health care and schooling.

The Hassan family is from southern Somalia and the parents have been in an Ethiopian refugee camp for 20 years. Although most of their immediate needs have been supplied, they still need a few household supplies, including mixing bowls, wooden mixing spoons, small paring knives, kitchen towels and wash cloths. The six children could all use additional clothes and shoes that fit. Their sizes are: 2 yr. old girl, Umulkhey; 6 yr. old boy Jimale (size 5-6); 9 yr. old boy Abdi (size 7-8); 10 yr. old boy Ahmed (size 7-8); 13 yr. old boy Mustafa (size 12), and 17 yr. old girl Ayan (size 16). The mother and oldest daughter wear traditional clothes. If you have any donations for the family, please bring them to church and put in the bin labeled Hassan family.

Another need is transportation to appointments. Please contact Mary Vanderford, (612-827-3014) mandmvanderford@gmail.com, if you are willing to be called for help. Thanks.



More News ...

SAVE THE DATE: Wingspan Ministry to Host Fundraising Reception for Uganda Bishop September 17 at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

Wingspan Ministry of St. Paul-Reformation Lutheran Church is honored to host Bishop Christopher Senyonjo during his fall UK-USA tour. Bishop Christopher, named one of Huffington Post's Ten Most Influential Religious Leaders for 2010, will speak about his work on behalf of essential services and human rights for GLBT persons. An Anglican Bishop in Uganda from 1974-1998, he now directs St. Paul's Reconciliation and Equality Centre for LGBTQ/Straight Alliance in Kampala. The 4-6 pm reception at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church (700 Snelling Ave. So., St. Paul) on Saturday, September 17, will raise funds for the Bishop's work and provide an opportunity to hear from and meet the bishop. Please save the date and watch for details about this opportunity to offer your generous support for the Bishop's critical work in Uganda.

Crisis in the Horn of Africa

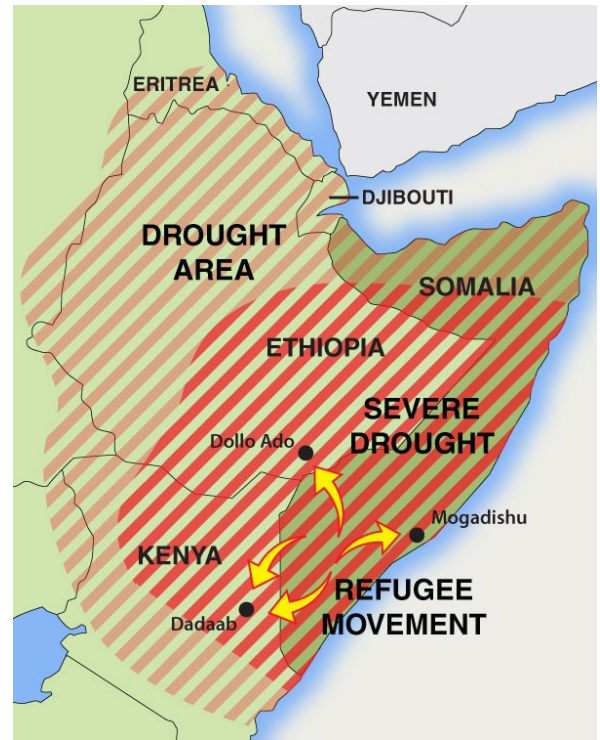
From an August letter from Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson:

"In the Horn of Africa, the lives and livelihoods of millions of people have been devastated by the worst drought in 60 years. Crops have failed and water is scarce. Desperate families are abandoning their homes seeking aid. Hundreds of thousands of people have already made their way to refugee camps in Kenya and Ethiopia. More than twelve million people are in need of help now.

For those who have made their way to the Dadaab camp in Kenya and the Doolo Ado camp in Ethiopia, the ELCA is helping provide safe water and nutritious food. Both camps were established with the support of the ELCA through ELCA World Hunger; the camps are managed by Lutherans through our global church partner The Lutheran World Federation....

Thanks to the generosity of ELCA members like you, we have committed \$1.25 million for drought relief work in the Horn of Africa through ELCA Disaster Response....

I am asking that you take time in worship and throughout your week to hold our sisters and brothers in prayer. As you are able, please make a renewed commitment to ELCA World Hunger and ELCA Disaster Response." Information and giving at: www.elca.org/disaster.



Minnesotans Standing Together

September 11, 2011 marks the tenth anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. In observance of that day a coalition of faith organizations is presenting a community observance which will honor the ideals of freedom and democracy, lament loss, offer healing, and create hope and inspiration for great cooperation in our diverse state and nation.

The public ceremony will take place on Sunday, September 11, 2011, from 2:00 pm- 4:00 pm on the Capitol Mall in St. Paul.

Sponsored by the Minnesota Council of Churches and many interfaith organizations, the ceremony will feature an unprecedented coalition of religious, civic and public officials, musicians and artists from across Minnesota.



Our Sympathy...

On July 9, Evelyn Strubbe died at the age of 97. Services were held in Lindstrom, Minnesota. We give thanks for Evelyn's faith and witness. She loved to cook and over the years worked at restaurants around the area.



More News ...

Godspeed, Sarah

On Sunday, August 14 we prayed Godspeed for Sarah Kunze as she prepared to move from the Twin Cities to the Seattle area. Sarah has a new position in development at Seattle Goodwill and looks forward to being closer to her boyfriend Paul. Over Sarah's years at Salem, she has served on the church council as Vice President, and has worked closely with the development and partnership process. Thank you, Sarah, for your faithfulness, leadership, and care. You are greatly missed!

Stewardship Giving

Thank you for your faithful giving to support God's ministry through Salem. During August, many of you should have received a mid-year (7 month) giving statement. This is intended as a way to thank you for your gifts, and to check our records against your records and intentions. If you have questions or concerns about your giving, please contact Linda Hanson at 612-251-6805 or lindahanson31@gmail.com. Over the summer months our giving has been slightly decreased. Thanks in advance for helping our congregation live within its budget.

Jillian Emery Visits Church Camps to Support Camp Staff

"This summer I had the opportunity to work for the Admissions Department and for the Children, Youth and Family Ministry Departments at Luther Seminary. It is estimated that 80% of seminary students have had some sort of camping ministry in their background, which is why Luther Seminary feels so strongly about keeping alive the connection between the camping world and the seminary world. My job entailed traveling to ten different ELCA Bible Camps in seven weeks, with the main goal of being a resource and support to the college aged counselors at the different camps. The conversations I had ranged from light hearted to deeply theological. I listened as camp staff shared with me about their life plans, their challenges at college, their family difficulties, their camp experiences and where they saw God working in and through it all. It was an honor and a blessing to be a part of these conversations and to see the Spirit working through these college students who have the power, privilege and ability to impact the lives of so many young people. Although there was a lot of traveling involved, the inspiring conversations I had each week filled me with energy and gave me much hope for the future of the church."

-Jillian

Reaching Out *Service, Justice, and Outreach Opportunities*



CROP Walk—"We walk because they walk"

This year's CROP Walk will be Sunday, **October 9** beginning at Augsburg College at 1:30 pm. The funds raised by the CROP Walk support the hunger ministries of Church World Service with 25% of the funds going to local feeding programs and 25% to north Minneapolis' tornado hit areas. A bike ride is also available this year. Watch for more information and plan to participate in this beautiful fall walk.



Food Shelf

Reminder: You can always bring food shelf donations to church. These donations of non-perishable items can be left in the "food basket" near the sign up table. They are regularly delivered to

Simpson Food Shelf. Financial donations can be given through the weekly offerings, designating "food shelf" in the memo. Thanks!



Simpson Shelter Meal

Our next opportunity to prepare and serve the evening meal at Simpson Shelter will be Wednesday, **September 7** at 5:30 pm. Sign up at church if you can help, or e-mail Mary Vanderford at mandmvanderford@gmail.com.



Sunday School News

Kathy Hayden, Sunday School/Christian Education Committee Co-Chair

This is an exciting new Sunday School year. We will continue to use the SPARK Bibles and use curriculum created by Catrina Ciccone (Salem) and Deb Murphy (First). Our theme for the year is God is faithful and with us through all life changes and transitions. The Bible stories we will cover are Noah, Ruth and Naomi, Healing (man lowered through the roof), Babies (John the Baptist, Jesus, Advent), Wise Men and Escape to Egypt, Esther, Daniel, Disciples, and Philip and the Ethiopian. Rotation means that we will use drama, science, games, arts and crafts to rotate how we explore these stories. We will continue to have monthly service projects or community social building activities that will be intergenerational.

Rally Sunday will be September 11. Sunday School begins that morning at 9:15 am. We will gather for one service at 10:30 am for the people of Salem and Lyndale. Following worship we will celebrate our children and Sunday School year with SpiritJazz music outside the Ministry Center, hot dogs (beef and vegetarian), and root beer floats. There will be tours inside the Ministry Center. Sunday School begins at 9:15 am when we gather for music, stories, snacks, updates, and weekly offering that will go to support the service projects. We will have signs directing families to the classrooms. Class concludes at 10:15 am. Our classes will be 3-5 year olds, 6-7 year olds, 8-9 year olds, and 10-13 year olds. Jillian Emery will be working with our 10-13 year olds as a Bible study and fellowship group (pre-youth group).

We will start the year with a favorite activity, apple picking at Deardorff Orchard in Waconia on September 25 following worship. The orchard has wagon rides, farm animals, a haystack for the kids to play on, shopping, and a winery. Our first service project will be the CROP Walk on October 9th. It is a ministry of Church World Service that helps to provide food, water, and resources that empower people to meet their own needs.

Youth and Young Adult Ministry

Jillian Emery, Youth and Young Adult Minister

Questions? Contact Jillian Emery at
612-723-3356 or
jemery001@luthersem.edu



Theology Uncorked for Young Adults

Tuesday, **September 13**, 7 pm at The Dubliner, 2162 University Ave. in St. Paul. Vandalia Street is the cross street.

What is Theology Uncorked? Theology Uncorked is a time for the young adults in the congregation to get together as a community once a month to have time for conversation. There is generally no set topic before hand, but we all come with an open mind and a willingness to listen to one another. Some of the topics we have discussed are politics, faith, family, friends, careers, school and countless other random conversations. It is always a good time and the conversations are always unpredictable! It has been wonderful getting to know the young adults and building our community together.

Youth Update

We will be starting up our more regular youth events again soon. The youth were busy doing their own thing this summer so I am looking forward to reconnecting with them all again this fall. Look for more information about our next event in the next few weeks. We will also be planning a youth and young adult service project for the end of September as well...more details to come!





CALENDAR

Week of August 28

Sunday	8/28	8:30 am	Traditional Service
	8/28	9:30 am	Fellowship
	8/28	10:30 am	Jazz Service
	8/28	11:30 am	Fellowship
	8/28	12:00 pm	Sunday School Training at IA
Monday	8/29	6:30 pm	Sunday School Training at First Christian
Tuesday	8/30	6:30 pm	Farewell for Bishop Johnson at Mount Olivet
Wed.	8/31	7:30 pm	Web Team at Bob's Java Hut

Week of September 4

Sunday	9/4	8:30 am	Traditional Service
	9/4	9:30 am	Fellowship
	9/4	10:30 am	Jazz Service
	9/4	11:30 am	Fellowship
Weds.	9/7	5:30 pm	Simpson Shelter Meal
	9/7	6:30 pm	Transformation Team Meeting
Thursday	9/8	6:00 pm	ISAIAH Event

Week of September 11—Rally Sunday

Sunday	9/11	9:15 am	Sunday School & Youth
	9/11	9:30 am	Fellowship
	9/11	10:30 am	Worship with Lyndale UCC
	9/11	11:45 am	Floats, Tours, Hot Dogs, Music
	9/11	2:00 pm	Minnesotans Standing Together
Tuesday	9/13	7:00 pm	Theology Uncorked at The Dubliner
Saturday	9/17	11:00 am	ISAIAH Event

Week of September 18

Sunday	9/18	8:30 am	Traditional Service
	9/18	9:15 am	Sunday School & Youth
	9/18	9:30 am	Fellowship
	9/18	9:40 am	ReDevelopment Forum
	9/18	10:30 am	Jazz Service
	9/18	11:30 am	Fellowship
Weds.	9/21	9:30 am	Whittier Community Faith Leaders at IA
	9/21	6:00 pm	Executive Committee
	9/21	6:30 pm	Church Council
Thursday	9/22	7:00 pm	Ministry Center Board at First Christian
Saturday	9/24	9:00 am	Transformation Team Retreat

Week of September 25

Sunday	9/25	8:30 am	Traditional Service
	9/25	9:15 am	Sunday School & Youth
	9/25	9:30 am	Fellowship
	9/25	9:40 am	Adult Ed—Bible Study
	9/25	10:30 am	Jazz Service
	9/25	11:30 am	Fellowship
	9/25	12:00 pm	Apple Picking at Deardorff Orchard

Adult Education

We begin our Adult Education year on September 11. That Sunday we'll spend some time reflecting on our hopes for Adult Ed over the coming months. Bring your ideas.

Sundays, 9:40-10:15 am

September 4—Fellowship

September 11—Planning for the year

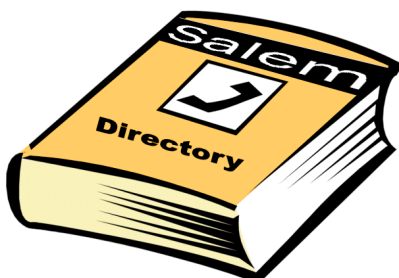
September 18—ReDevelopment Forum

September 25—Bible Study

Thrivent Choice

Some members of Thrivent have the opportunity to designate Thrivent dollars be given to the organization of their choice. Salem is one of these potential organizations. Consider the option! Thanks.

Directories



If you haven't picked up a revised church directory, grab one soon! If you'd like one mailed to you, please contact Laurie in the office (612-872-4650).

From the Fairview newsletter...

"100-Year-Young Volunteer Keeps on Knittin' Kathryn Patterson celebrated 100 years in April! She started knitting new-born baby caps in 2002 and since then she's accrued 1,635 hours. For every knitted baby cap, Kathryn receives credit for three volunteer hours. Trotting out our handy calculator...that's 545 caps! They are so sweet!!"

WANTED: Construction Pictures

Does any one have pictures of the construction project on our church that they would like me to add to an album on our FaceBook page? Please send them to: art@emchez.com or if they are prints you can hand them to me at church some Sunday (I go to the 10:30 service) and I will scan them. (I can also return the prints to you)

Thanks much.

—Emily Chesley